

Application No. 09/884,406
Amendment Dated July 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004

REMARKS

This Response is in response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2004 in respect to this application. Claims 1 and 12 are amended by the present amendment. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, 14-16, 19 and 20 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17, 19 are pending and are not withdrawn in this application subsequent to the present Amendment.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION:

The Examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, including Group I to claims 2-4 and 14-16, Group II to claims 8 and 9, Group III to claims 5, 7, 17 and 19 and to Group IV to claims 6, 10, 18 and 20. Claims 1 and 11-13 are generic. Applicant affirms the election of Group III with traverse to prosecute claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17 and 19. For the efficiency of both the applicant and the Patent Office, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner examine all claims, without restriction.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,131 (Brandes et al.) This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the claim language and its limitation for "at least one layer of purification media" throughout the claim. With respect to independent claim 1, as amended, this claim includes limitations directed to:

a purifier comprising at least one layer of purification media located in the interior section of said storage and dispensing vessel wherein said at least one layer of purification media is located adjacent to said gas outlet conduit of said vessel and is adapted to provide that any gas desorbed from said sorbent

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medium must pass through and contact said at least one layer of purification media prior to exiting said vessel through said outlet conduit.

Brandes et al., alone or in combination with any of the prior art of record, do not teach or suggest such a purifier. Specifically, independent claim 1 requires a purifier that includes at least one layer of purification media that is located adjacent to the gas outlet conduit of the vessel where the desorbed gas must pass through at least one layer of purification media. No discussion of layers of purification media was made by Brandes et al. Additionally, no discussion that the layers of purification media must be adjacent to the gas outlet of the conduit such that the gas must contact the purification media prior to exiting the vessel was made by Brandes et al.

It is believed that the only mention of purification whatsoever by Brandes et al. is at col. 6, lines 29-34. Here, Brandes et al. state:

The apparatus of the invention optionally may be constructed with a solid phase physical sorbent medium being present in the storage and dispensing vessel together with a chemisorbent material having a sorptive affinity for contaminants, e.g., decomposition products, of the sorbate fluid therein.

Based on this paragraph, Brandes et al. do not teach or suggest layers of purification media that are adjacent to the gas outlet of the conduit. Since dependent claims 5 and 7 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner also pass claims 5 and 7 to allowance. Additionally, with respect to claims 5 and 7, in the Office Action the Examiner states that Brandes et al. teach a purifier conduit and cites figure 1, items 19 and 32. Item 19 is merely port that provides for fluid flow from the interior of the cylinder through the valve head. Similarly, item 32 is merely a "dip tube" -- again merely a port. No mention whatsoever is made of a purifier conduit that includes at least one layer of purification media disposed in the purifier

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conduit. The rejection of claims 5 and 7 should also be withdrawn.

In independent claim 11, the following limitations are required:

a purifier comprising a purification media generally homogeneously mixed with said sorbent medium in the interior section of said storage and dispensing vessel such that substantially any gas desorbed from said sorbent medium must pass through and contact said purification media prior to exiting said vessel through said outlet conduit.

Claim 11 includes a limitation that the purification media be generally homogeneously mixed with the sorbent material. Again, Brandes et al. merely teach that a chemisorbent material is present together with a solid-phase sorbent medium. No further specifics are given and no mention of a homogeneous mix is stated. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 12 includes substantially the same limitation as independent claim 1 with respect to the purifier comprising at least one layer of purification media located adjacent to the gas outlet conduit and that any gas desorbed from the sorbent medium must pass through the purification media prior to exiting said vessel. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, independent claim 12 should also be allowable. Additionally, since claim 12 is allowable and claims 13, 17 and 19 depend from claim 1, all of claims 12, 13, 17 and 19 should be allowable.

Additionally, with respect to claim 17, Brandes et al. do not teach or suggest a purifier conduit including at least one layer of purification media disposed in the purifier conduit, whereby any desorbed gas withdrawn from the vessel must pass through the purifier conduit.

Finally, with respect to claim 19, Brandes et al. do not teach or suggest a purifier conduit including at least one layer of purification media disposed in the purifier conduit, and wherein the purifier further includes at least one layer of purification media adjacent to and covering the

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second end of said purifier conduit. Again, the only mention of any purification by Brandes et al. is at col. 6, lines 29-34, as stated above.

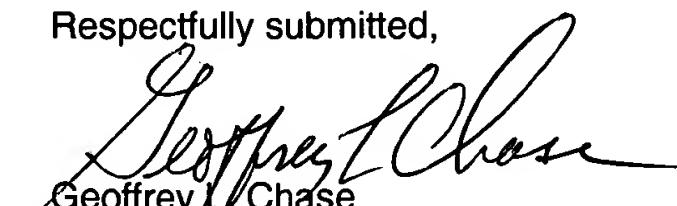
It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and pass claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17, 19, as amended, to allowance and issuance.

The prior art that is of record, but not specifically relied upon by the Examiner, is deemed by applicant to be less relevant than that art specifically cited.

NOTE

Applicants request that the Examiner notify the undersigned attorney when the Examiner takes up this case for further review and examination. Applicants desire to have a telephone interview with the Examiner if the present amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, if the Examiner intends to issue an Office Action rejecting any of the claims as amended, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner first call the undersigned attorney prior to issuing an Office Action so that a telephone interview can be arranged.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey L. Chase
Reg. No. 28,059

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-7265